

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AND SHEILA KUEHL**

JANUARY 13, 2015

Leveraging the County’s Health System to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

On June 10, 2014, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the final recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection, including recommendations to pair a Public Health Nurse with a Department of Children and Family Services Children’s Social Worker when conducting child abuse or neglect investigations and referring children whose cases are under investigation for further screening at a Medical Hub. Last week, the Board directed the Interim Chief Executive Officer and other relevant Los Angeles County departments to create a pathway forward to expedite implementation of these two critical recommendations.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS direct the Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Directors of the Departments of Children and Family Services, Health Services, Mental Health and Public Health to:

- 1) Implement the recommendations per the CEO’s report dated January 12, 2015 for the actionable items related to pairing a Public Health Nurse with a Children’s Social Worker when conducting abuse and neglect investigations for all children under 24 months of age;
- 2) Report back within ninety days on further milestones, performance outcomes, operational changes and additional board actions. Performance outcomes

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should include an evaluation of program effectiveness and any issues encountered in the first phase so that the Board may consider changes before implementation of next phase. This report should also include an update on the Medical Hub augmentation and its impact on appointment wait times and functionality of the Medical Hubs;

- 3) Work with Board offices to finalize policy and recommendations regarding the provision of screenings of newly detained children, including coordination with existing initial comprehensive medical exams; and
- 4) Report back as part of the CEO's Recommended Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget with an assessment of budget and operational changes, including personnel and capital improvements, needed to implement the recommendations outlined in the January 12, 2015 CEO and January 9, 2015 DHS memoranda to the Board of Supervisors.

WE FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS direct the Interim Chief Executive Officer to add fourteen new positions to the Department of Health Services to augment six Medical Hubs as reflected in DHS' January 9, 2015 report to the Board of Supervisors. The estimated \$2 million cost of these positions should be absorbed within existing resources in the DHS budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 and should include resources necessary to conduct screenings as referred by Public Health Nurses who determine such screenings as medically necessary during the child and neglect abuse investigation.

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YV/DJ